

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 12, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 96

Introduced by Assembly Member Olsen
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Rendon)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Buchanan, Donnelly, Hagman, Hall,
Melendez, Quirk-Silva, and Rodriguez)
(Coauthors: Senators Gaines and Jackson)

February 12, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 96—Relative to the 150th anniversary of the California State Park System.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 96, as amended, Olsen. The 150th anniversary of the California State Park System.

This measure would recognize the 150th anniversary of the California State Park System and would urge all Californians to join in celebrating this important anniversary of our state park system.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The first state park was conceived in California in
2 1862. Captain Israel Ward Raymond and California's United States
3 Senator John Conness wanted to have natural land areas at
4 Yosemite set aside purely for the purpose of preservation and
5 public enjoyment. At Raymond's request, Senator Conness
6 introduced a bill that quickly passed through both Congressional
7 houses. President Abraham Lincoln signed The Yosemite Grant
8 Act on June 30, 1864, which granted the Yosemite Valley, and the

1 Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California. Governor
2 Frederick Low accepted the grant in September of that year; and

3 WHEREAS, The first state historic monument was a statute of
4 James Marshall erected in 1890 near his gold discovery site in
5 Coloma, and other historic sites have since been preserved,
6 including Fort Ross, Sonoma Mission, Pio Pico's home, and
7 Sutter's Fort; and

8 WHEREAS, In recent years, the state park system has expanded
9 to include off-highway vehicle parks and underwater parks; and

10 WHEREAS, California state parks maintain not only the natural
11 beauty of the state, but provide valuable spaces for recreation,
12 escape, history, and a special place for contemplation; and

13 WHEREAS, The Department of Parks and Recreation currently
14 manages 280 park units, which contain the finest and most diverse
15 collection of natural, cultural, and recreational resources to be
16 found within California. These treasures are as diverse as California
17 and ~~include (1):~~ *include: (1)* the last stands of primeval redwood
18 forests and vast expanses of fragile desert; (2) the lofty Sierra
19 Nevada and the broad sandy beaches of our southern coast; and
20 (3) the opulence of Hearst Castle and the vestiges of colonial
21 Russia; and

22 WHEREAS, California's state parks contain the largest and
23 most diverse natural and cultural heritage holdings of any state
24 agency in the nation. State park units include underwater preserves,
25 reserves, and parks; redwood, rhododendron, and wildlife reserves;
26 state beaches, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and reservoirs;
27 state historic parks, historic homes, Spanish era adobe buildings,
28 including museums, visitor centers, cultural reserves, and preserves;
29 as well as lighthouses, ghost towns, waterslides, conference centers,
30 and off-highway vehicle parks. These parks protect and preserve
31 an unparalleled collection of culturally and environmentally
32 sensitive structures and habitats, threatened plant and animal
33 species, ancient Native American sites, historic structures and
34 artifacts, and demonstrate the best of California's natural and
35 cultural history; and

36 WHEREAS, The California state park system is responsible for
37 almost one-third of California's scenic coastline, which includes
38 nearly 300 parks, beaches, trails, wildlife areas, open spaces,
39 off-highway vehicle areas, and historic sites. It consists of
40 approximately 1.59 million acres, including over 339 miles of

1 coastline, 974 miles of lake, reservoir and river frontage,
2 approximately 15,000 campsites and alternative camping facilities,
3 and 4,456 miles of nonmotorized trails; and

4 WHEREAS, Since 1864, grassroots activism and legislation
5 have made it possible for all Californians to take pride and
6 ownership of their unique and diverse landscapes. Parks maintain
7 not only the natural beauty of California, but provide recreation,
8 escape, ~~history~~ *history*, and a special place for contemplation and
9 reflection; and

10 WHEREAS, The California state park system continues as a
11 national and world leader in conservation and today, and into the
12 future, our state parks preserve land, biosystems, and historic sites
13 for public use; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the 150th
16 anniversary of the California state park system and urges all
17 Californians to join in celebrating this important anniversary of
18 our state park system; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
20 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.